

February 8, 1957

Mr. William Freeman
660 Market Street
San Francisco 4, Cal.

Dear Bill:

I'm sorry I never got in touch with you again before New Year's but our schedule became very hectic, and it looked like yours was sufficiently the same.

Since we saw one another, our lives have been somewhat complicated by an attractive counteroffer from Berkeley (in the Genetics Department). You can imagine the aches of the heart and the mind that go into trying to solve this trilemma.

I have been pressing to see what I could do with the monograph on Bacterial Recombination, and this is shaping up quite concretely. If I press on it, I should be able to have the ms. ready by the time we pass through California in early June (en route to Melbourne where we stay the summer). If this continues to look to a happy coincidence with your own staff's time, I will exert myself to do it by then.

My best guess as to the length of the principal text is 200-250 pages of typescript (300 w. each) or about 125 ~~type~~ print pages. Better than half of this is written now, and virtually all is sketched out. There would also be half a dozen half-tones (perhaps less) and a dozen diagrams. Add 5-10% for bibliography. I am also debating the merits of a rather weighty appendix which would include altogether 122 pages of reprinting of some of the key historical milestones in this field, plus two papers on methods which are still in heavy demand and out of print. If this is impossible, there is at least one paper which is overlengthy, but not too easy to get hold of, that I would like to do this way as a compromise (Griffith, F. 1928 The significance of pneumococcal types. Journal of Hygiene, 27: 113-159. (The journal is a Cambridge publication.)). The other papers I have in mind are [I blush] my own, being the primary announcements of sexual crossing and of transduction (1947, 20 pp; 1952 21 pp) and two on methods (1950, 17 pp., 1952, 8 pp). I also plan about 10 pages of explicit laboratory exercises on recombination; for at least one of these I will need some outside help.

If I judged your reactions correctly, you might actually prefer a book of 250 pages to one of 125, and there would be a far from proportionate increase in cost. If it would save further, you could of course photo-offset the 'reprints'. Having these texts would somewhat simplify some of the monographic narrative; it will not substitute for it.

Tom Webb of the UW Press is also interested in this; the matter of timing would be an important consideration, and I suspect you can outpace him on that.

Yours,